



UGANDA

Permanent Mission of Uganda
To the United Nations
New York

Tel: (212) 949-0110
Fax: (212) 687-4517

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STATEMENT

BY

PROF. PAMELA B. MBABAZI

CHAIRPERSON, NATIONAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

**AT THE 58TH SESSION OF
THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

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Chairperson, Excellences, Distinguished Delegates,

I congratulate the Chairperson, and the other members of the Bureau on your election.

This theme" ***Ensuring Healthy Lives and Promoting Well-being for All at All Ages***" aligns with Uganda's Vision 2040 and our commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action.

Uganda recognizes that a healthy population is not only fundamental to individual well-being but also a pivotal driver of socioeconomic transformation, social stability, resilience and the realization of a demographic dividend. Uganda's population is rapidly growing, currently at 45.9 million. This growth presents significant challenges and opportunities in healthcare, education, job creation, and resource allocation.

Today, I wish to highlight Uganda's progress in health and well-being:

Progress in Health Metrics: Life expectancy has increased from 43 years in 1990 to 68 years in 2022. Maternal mortality has decreased from 336 to 189 deaths per 100,000 live births and under-five mortality from 52 to 46 deaths per 1,000 live births, largely due to enhancements in Primary Health Care and immunization coverage against childhood diseases has increased to 90%. HIV prevalence declined to 5.1%. However, the high population growth continues to strain healthcare services, alongside a teenage pregnancy rate of 24%.

Cancer Treatment Advancements: The Uganda Cancer Institute has been expanded, now fully operational with two regional oncological centers. We are also facing an increasing burden from other non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Improved Access to Healthcare Services: Over 90% of Uganda's population now resides within 5 kilometers of a health facility enhancing improving access to essential services. However, the patient to skilled health worker ratio remains high.

Sanitation and Hygiene Improvements: Sanitation coverage has risen from 19% to 44%, and access to handwashing facilities has increased from 34% to 47% in the past five years.

Education: Primary school enrollment has increased from 8.8 million in 2018 to 10.2 million in 2022, achieving gender parity. Accessing Early Childhood Care and Education and ensuring completion rates remains a challenge.

Vocational Skills and Economic Empowerment: Government has initiated to provide vocational skills and affordable financial support through programs like industrial parks, regional skilling hubs, the Youth Livelihood Programme, and the Parish Development Model, benefiting youth and women. Further investment is needed to equip these skilling hubs and establish a startup fund.

Social Protection Initiatives: Our social protection programs, including pension schemes and the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), disability grant, and SAGE have reduced risks and vulnerability. Yet, only 6% of Ugandans currently benefit from these social protection schemes.

In response to these challenges, Uganda is committed to:

Strengthening Primary and Community Health Services: Empowering Village Health Teams to effectively address both communicable and non-communicable diseases through a robust community health strategy.

Innovative Health Financing: Mobilizing domestic health financing and fast tracking enactment of the National Health Insurance Bill.

Gender and disability sensitive Programming: Implementing comprehensive gender and disability sensitive programmes.

Building Climate-Resilient Health Systems: Integrating climate adaptation measures into health policies through our Health National Adaptation Plan (2025-2030).

Addressing Youth Unemployment: Strengthening investments in regional skilling hubs and establishing funds to support vocational training and job creation.

Finally, Uganda remains committed to work with development partners and other relevant stakeholders to advance population and development goals through a lifecycle approach by addressing the social determinants of health and reducing inequalities, while leaving no one behind to achieve sustainable development.

I thank you.